

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LAHONTAN REGION**

**MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2010  
VICTORVILLE**

**ITEM:** 11

**SUBJECT:** **WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR NURSERY PRODUCTS, HAWES COMPOSTING FACILITY, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

**CHRONOLOGY:** This is a new permit.

**ISSUE:** A significant number of comments have been received on this agenda item. These comments raise the following issues:

Do the proposed waste discharge requirements:

1. address the potential for odors generated at the site to become a nuisance;
2. address the potential for gasses generated at the site to affect health (nuisance) or water quality; and,
3. address the potential for pathogens that are in sludge from becoming airborne and affecting public health (nuisance) or water quality?

A more detailed discussion of these issues can be found in Enclosure 4.

**DISCUSSION:** Nursery Products (Discharger) proposes to construct, own, and operate a composting facility on 80 acres of land in an unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County, west of the town of Hinkley. The Facility will recycle green material and treated biosolids into compost. The engineered composting pad, which is classified as a Class II Waste Pile, will be sloped to prevent ponding, such that all stormwater within the Facility will runoff through the composting area and collect in two Class II Surface Impoundments equipped with leak detection monitoring sumps. The Facility will be completely bermed such that stormwater will be diverted around the Facility. Stormwater falling onto the Facility will likely commingle with compost material and be transported from the composting piles into the Surface Impoundments. The contents of the Surface Impoundments may be allowed to evaporate, be pumped out and recycled within the composting process, or be used for dust control on the Facility.

The materials to be stored at the Facility include green waste, biosolids, bulking agents, and finished compost. The maximum daily tonnage to be received on any single day will be no more than 2,000 wet tons of a combination of biosolids, green material, and bulking

agents, and no more than 400,000 wet tons annually. Bulking agents or amendments, consisting of sand, gypsum, and sawdust, are not to exceed 200 tons per day. The maximum annual volume of compost to be produced at the Facility is not to exceed 400,000 cubic yards.

The composting material leachate, as well as the commingled stormwater, are classified as Class II designated waste. The Discharger has proposed to construct an engineered pad consistent with the requirements for a Waste Pile, and contain the stormwater in two lined Surface Impoundments. This Order requires the Discharger to construct the Waste Pile and Surface Impoundments in accordance with California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 27 standards.

This Order requires the Discharger to monitor the Waste Pile and Surface Impoundments pursuant to CCR, title 27, which includes a groundwater monitoring program.

The Discharger has submitted preliminary plans and cost estimates for closure. The Discharger is required to provide financial assurance documents for closure and corrective action for a reasonably foreseeable release prior to operation of the Facility.

Water Board staff has solicited comments from the Discharger and interested parties. Comments (Enclosure 2) received on the two tentative waste discharge requirements circulated on October 28, 2009 and December 22, 2009 have been addressed (Enclosure 3). Comments on the proposed waste discharge requirements (Enclosure 1) are due on March 3, 2010. Responses to comments received will be provided at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Adoption of Order as proposed.

- Enclosures:
1. [Proposed Board Order](#)
  2. Public Comments
  3. Response to Public Comments
    - a. [Responses to Comments Received on the October 28, 2009 Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements.](#)
    - b. [Responses to Form Letter Comments Received on the October 28, 2009 Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements.](#)
    - c. [Responses to Comments Received on the December 22, 2009 Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements.](#)
  4. [Issue Paper](#)